Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for generating analytical information requested by a front-end software application system, ~~invoking execution of analytical tasks in sequence,~~ the method comprising:

receiving [[a]] from a front-end software application system, an electronic request to execute [[an]] a preconfigured analytical task; ~~from a front-end software application;~~

determining, from task definition configuration data that define the preconfigured analytical task, that a predecessor ~~first additional~~ analytical task needs to be executed as part of the preconfigured analytical task; ~~before the requested analytical task;~~

invoking execution of the ~~first additional~~ predecessor analytical task on a first analytical engine, the first analytical engine being identified by the task definition configuration data, and receiving from the first analytical engine a value for an output field of the predecessor analytical task;

determining, from the task definition configuration data, that a second analytical task needs to be executed as part of the preconfigured analytical task, the execution of the second analytical task requiring, as an input field, the output field of the predecessor analytical task;

invoking execution of the second analytical task on a second analytical engine, the second analytical engine being identified by the task definition configuration data, sending to the second analytical engine the value for the output field of the predecessor analytical task received from the first analytical engine, and receiving from the second analytical engine a value for an output field of the second analytical task; and

using the value for the output field of the second analytical task to generate an electronic response with analytical information, and sending the electronic response to the front-end

software application system ~~information generated from the execution of the first additional analytical task to invoke execution of the requested analytical task on a second analytical engine~~.

19. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 18, wherein the method further comprises using information contained within the request in conjunction with the ~~predetermined~~ task definition configuration data ~~information~~ to determine that the first additional analytical task needs to be executed before the ~~requested~~ second analytical task.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 18, wherein the ~~method comprises sending a~~ electronic response back to the front-end software application system [[that]] includes information relating to the execution of the ~~first additional~~ predecessor analytical task and the ~~requested~~ second analytical task.

21. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 18, wherein the predecessor ~~first additional~~ analytical task is a key performance indicator (KPI) lookup task, and wherein the first analytical engine is a KPI engine.

22. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 18, wherein the second ~~requested~~ analytical task is a prediction task, and wherein the second analytical engine is a prediction engine.

23. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 18, wherein the method further comprises using information contained within the electronic request to select the first analytical engine to be used in executing the ~~first additional~~ predecessor analytical task, and to select the second analytical engine to be used in executing the ~~requested~~ second analytical task.

24. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim [[of]] 18, wherein the first analytical engine is located externally from the second analytical engine.

25. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim [[of]] 18, wherein the method comprises:

determining, from the task definition configuration data, that a second predecessor ~~additional~~ analytical task needs to be executed before the predecessor ~~first additional~~ analytical task;

invoking execution of the second predecessor ~~additional~~ analytical task on a third analytical engine, the third analytical engine being identified by the task definition configuration data; and

sending ~~using~~ information generated from the execution of the second predecessor ~~additional~~ analytical task to the first analytical engine for use in the ~~invoke~~ execution of the predecessor ~~first additional~~ analytical task on the first analytical engine.

26. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium having computer-executable instructions ~~contained therein for performing~~ that when executed by a processor cause a method to be performed, the method comprising:

receiving [[a]] from a front-end software application system, an electronic request to execute [[an]] a preconfigured analytical task; ~~from a front-end software application;~~

determining, from task definition configuration data that define the preconfigured analytical task, that a predecessor ~~first additional~~ analytical task needs to be executed as part of the preconfigured analytical task; ~~before the requested analytical task;~~

invoking execution of the ~~first additional~~ predecessor analytical task on a first analytical engine, the first analytical engine being identified by the task definition configuration data, and receiving from the first analytical engine a value for an output field of the predecessor analytical task;

determining, from the task definition configuration data, that a second analytical task needs to be executed as part of the preconfigured analytical task, the execution of the second analytical task requiring, as an input field, the output field of the predecessor analytical task;

invoking execution of the second analytical task on a second analytical engine, the second analytical engine being identified by the task definition configuration data, sending to the second analytical engine the value for the output field of the predecessor analytical task received

from the first analytical engine, and receiving from the second analytical engine a value for an output field of the second analytical task; and

using the value for the output field of the second analytical task to generate an electronic response with analytical information, and sending the electronic response to the front-end software application system ~~information generated from the execution of the first additional analytical task to invoke execution of the requested analytical task on a second analytical engine~~.

27. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 26, wherein the method further comprises using information contained within the request in conjunction with the task definition configuration data to determine that the first additional analytical task needs to be executed before the second analytical task.

28. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 26, wherein the electronic response back to the front-end software application system includes information relating to the execution of the predecessor analytical task and the second analytical task.

29. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 26, wherein the predecessor analytical task is a key performance indicator (KPI) lookup task, and wherein the first analytical engine is a KPI engine.

30. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 26, wherein the second analytical task is a prediction task, and wherein the second analytical engine is a prediction engine.

31. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 26, wherein the method further comprises using information contained within the electronic request to select the first analytical engine to be used in executing the predecessor analytical task, and to select the second analytical engine to be used in executing the second analytical task.

32. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 26, wherein the first analytical engine is located externally from the second analytical engine.